SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
10¢
FEB.
NO. 49
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BIG TOWN
featuring "The MYSTERIOUS MASQUERADER of BIG TOWN!"
THE MASKED MASTERMIND-- LOOKS LIKE YOU, STEVE WILSON!
I REALLY AM STEVE WILSON! MY DOUBLE IS THE MASTERMIND!

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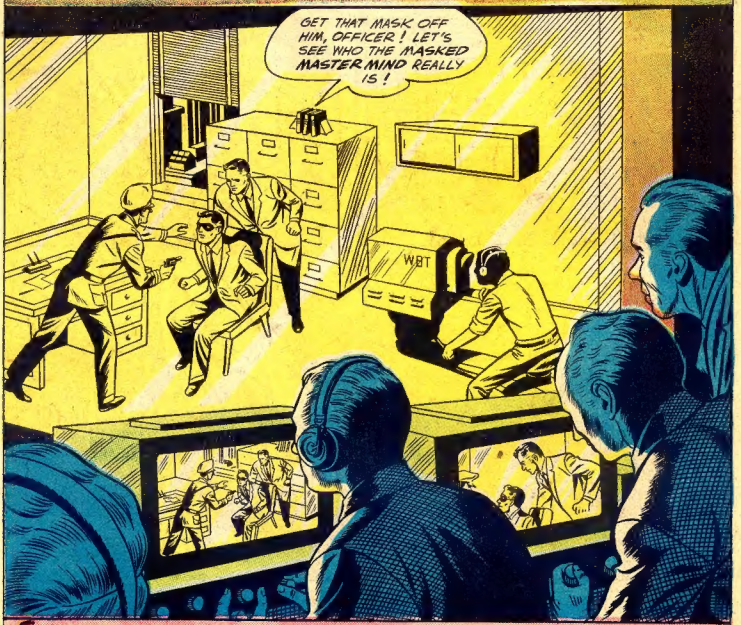
BIG TOWN



IT WAS A DUEL OF WITS -- BETWEEN A CRAFTY CRIMINAL KNOWN AS THE MASKED MASTER-MIND -- AND DOUGHTY STEVE WILSON, VETERAN EDITOR OF BIG TOWN'S ILLUSTRATED PRESS! A DUEL THAT RAN THE GAMUT OF EXCITEMENT AND DANGER AS THE LITHE AND ATHLETIC NEWSHAWK SCOURED THE MURKY CONFINES OF THE UNDERWORLD FOR...

The MYSTERIOUS MASQUERADER of BIG TOWN!

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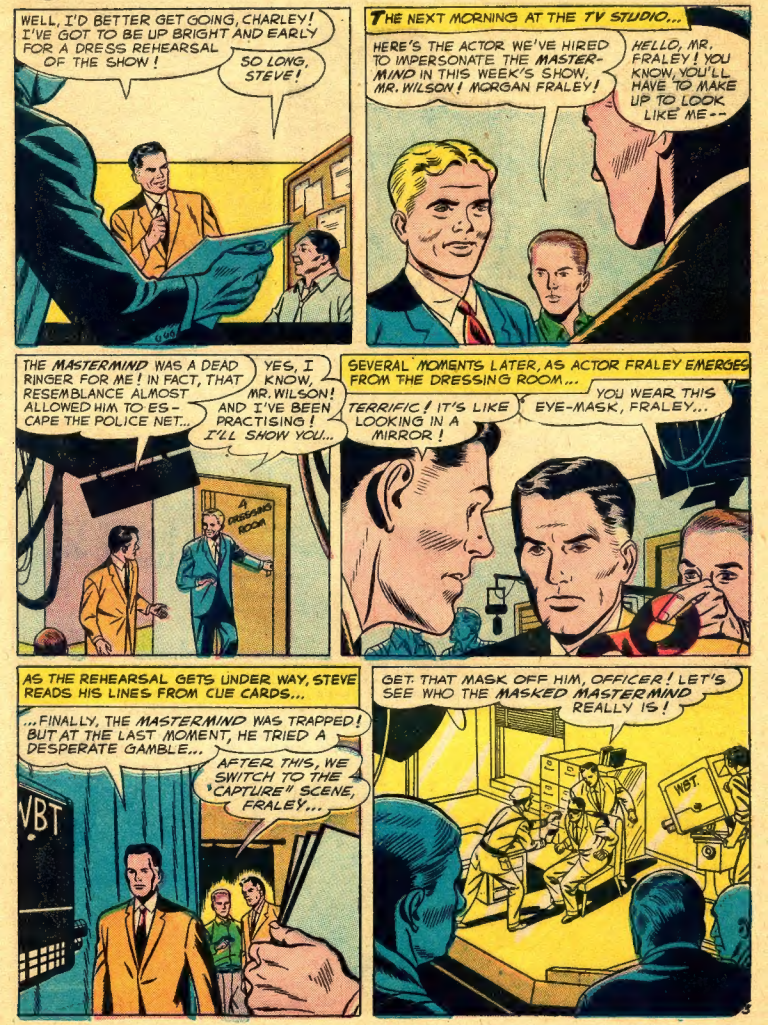
Printed in U.S.A.

AS STEVE WILSON PAUSES AT THE DESK OF CHARLEY ANDERSON, CITY EDITOR OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS...
CHARLEY, WE'RE DOING AN EPISODE THIS WEEK ON MY NEW TV PROGRAM, "THE ADVENTURES OF STEVE WILSON", THAT YOU'LL BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN!
WHAT'S THAT, STEVE?
THE MASKED MASTERMIND OF BIG TOWN! YOU REMEMBER--DON'T YOU, CHARLEY--THREE YEARS AGO...
I SURE DO, STEVE!
"IT WAS EXCITING RIGHT UP TO THE VERY END--WHEN THE MASTERMIND WAS TRAPPED ON THE HURLEY STREET BRIDGE...
...WITH YOU AND A POLICEMAN COMING AT HIM FROM ONE SIDE AND LT. GREGGORY FROM THE OTHER...
"...AND HE JUMPED!"
THERE HE GOES!
GRAB HIM!
HIS BODY WAS NEVER FOUND AND HE WAS PRESUMED DEAD! IT'S HARD TO CONCEIVE HOW HE COULD JUMP FROM THAT HEIGHT AND SURVIVE! ANYWAY, IT WAS THE END OF THE MASTERMIND...!
BUT WHAT'S THIS ALL GOT TO DO WITH YOUR TV SHOW, STEVE?
THESE ODD ROBBERIES THAT HAVE BEEN OCCURRING LATELY... ARE SO SIMILAR TO THE HANDIWORK OF THE MASTERMIND--THAT INTEREST HAS BEEN REAWAKENED IN HIM!
--AND, THAT'S WHY YOU'RE DOING THE STORY ON THIS WEEK'S SHOW! I'LL BE TUNED IN WHEN IT GOES ON!
ILLUSTRATED PRESS
THIRD MYSTERIOUS BURGLARY!

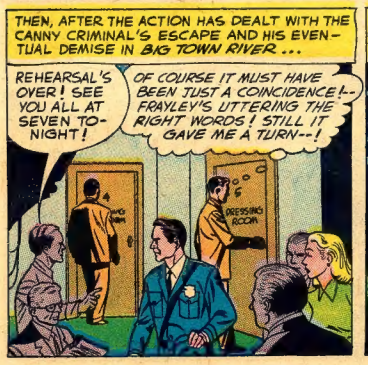

WELL, I'D BETTER GET GOING, CHARLEY! I'VE GOT TO BE UP BRIGHT AND EARLY FOR A DRESS REHEARSAL OF THE SHOW!
SO LONG, STEVE!
THE NEXT MORNING AT THE TV STUDIO...
HERE'S THE ACTOR WE'VE HIRED TO IMPERSONATE THE MASTER-MIND IN THIS WEEK'S SHOW, MR. WILSON! MORGAN FRALEY!
HELLO, MR. FRALEY! YOU KNOW, YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE UP TO LOOK LIKE ME--
THE MASTERMIND WAS A DEAD RINGER FOR ME! IN FACT, THAT RESEMBLANCE ALMOST ALLOWED HIM TO ES-CAPE THE POLICE NET...
YES, I KNOW, MR. WILSON! AND I'VE BEEN PRACTISING! I'LL SHOW YOU...
A DRESSING ROOM
SEVERAL MOMENTS LATER, AS ACTOR FRALEY EMERGES FROM THE DRESSING ROOM...
TERRIFIC! IT'S LIKE LOOKING IN A MIRROR!
YOU WEAR THIS EYE-MASK, FRALEY...
AS THE REHEARSAL GETS UNDER WAY, STEVE READS HIS LINES FROM CUE CARDS...
...FINALLY, THE MASTERMIND WAS TRAPPED! BUT AT THE LAST MOMENT, HE TRIED A DESPERATE GAMBLE...
AFTER THIS, WE SWITCH TO THE "CAPTURE" SCENE, FRALEY...
VBT
GET THAT MASK OFF HIM, OFFICER! LET'S SEE WHO THE MASKED MASTERMIND REALLY IS!
VBT

THE MASKED MASTERMIND--LOOKS LIKE YOU, STEVE WILSON!
I REALLY AM, STEVE WILSON! MY DOUBLE IS THE MASTERMIND!

YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS STUNT, MASTERMIND! I KNOW YOU'RE FULL OF TRICKS, BUT THIS ONCE--
EH?
WAIT A SECOND! STOP THE REHEARSAL!
WBST

YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR DIALOGUE AS WRITTEN IN THE SCRIPT, FRALEY! BUT--I REMEMBER. NOW--YOU'VE GIVEN IT THE WAY IT REALLY HAPPENED--ADDING THE WORD "STUNT" AFTER "THIS"...

WELL, THEN WE'LL ADD THE WORD "STUNT" TO THE SCRIPT, MR. WILSON--IF YOU SAY THAT'S MORE AUTHENTIC!
YES! I'M SURE NOW--THAT'S THE EXPRESSION THE MASTERMIND USED--"THIS STUNT"!


THEN, AFTER THE ACTION HAS DEALT WITH THE CANNY CRIMINAL'S ESCAPE AND HIS EVENTUAL DEMISE IN BIG TOWN RIVER...
REHEARSAL'S OVER! SEE YOU ALL AT SEVEN TONIGHT!
OF COURSE IT MUST HAVE BEEN JUST A COINCIDENCE!--FRAYLEY'S UTTERING THE RIGHT WORDS! STILL IT GAVE ME A TURN--!
DRESSING ROOM

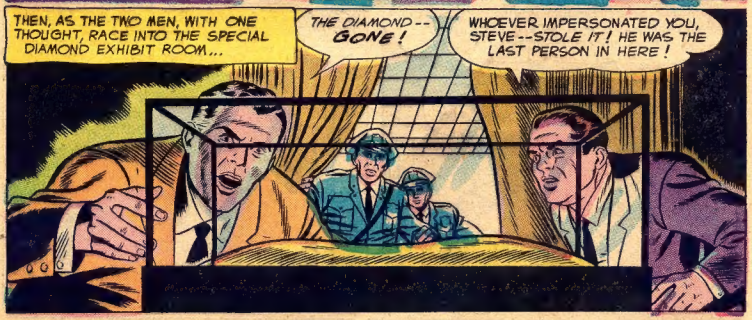
LATER, WHILE STEVE IS IN HIS DRESSING ROOM, A SILENT FIGURE STEALS IN AND ASSAULTS THE REPORTER FROM BEHIND...
THIS'LL KEEP YOU OUT OF MY WAY FOR A LONG WHILE, WILSON!

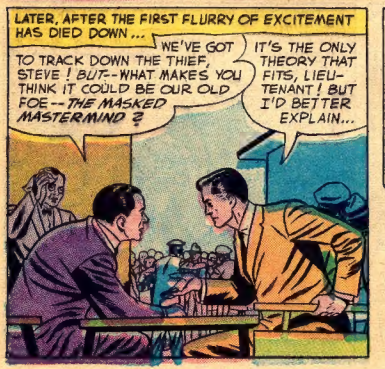
AND AS THE ACE NEWSMAN LIES MOTIONLESS ON THE FLOOR, HIS ASSAILANT LEAVES--SILENTLY...
NOW THAT THAT'S BEEN TAKEN CARE OF, I CAN GET ON WITH MY JOB!
MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN, IN THE SHOWROOMS OF 'CAFFENY'S, THE FAMOUS JEWELERS...
THE EXHIBITION OF THE JOHANNES DIAMOND--THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD--WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK, LT. GREGGORY! BEFORE THAT, THE PRESS WILL BE ALLOWED IN...
MY MEN WILL BE STATIONED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE EXHIBITION ROOM AND I MYSELF WILL CHECK EVERY VISITOR PERSONALLY!
FINE! WE MUSTN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES!
SOON AFTER, A FAMILIAR FIGURE APPEARS IN THE SHOWROOM...
LT. GREGGORY, I THOUGHT I'D TAKE A LOOK AT THE FABULOUS JOHANNES--IF I MAY.!
OF COURSE, STEVE! YOU'RE COVERING THIS STORY PERSONALLY, EH? GO RIGHT AHEAD!
LATER...
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT, STEVE?
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW, LIEUTENANT, YOU'LL HAVE TO READ MY WRITE-UP IN THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS! HA! HA!
AT THIS VERY MOMENT, IN THE TELEVISION BUILDING...
LT. GREGGORY, PLEASE...
SORRY, MR. WILSON, BUT THE LIEUTENANT IS AT THE NEW DIAMOND EXHIBIT... YOU CAN REACH HIM THERE...
STRANGE! DIDN'T WE JUST SEE STEVE WILSON AT THE DIAMOND EXHIBIT?!

BELOW, MOMENTS LATER...
CAFFENY'S, CABBY--AND HURRY!
THE DIAMOND EXHIBITION? HOP IN!
BIG TOWN
SION CENTER

SOON AFTER...
...AND THEN SOMEONE HIT ME! I DIDN'T SEE WHO IT WAS, LIEUTENANT--BUT I'VE GOT AN IDEA...
WAIT A MINUTE, STEVE! WHEN DID ALL THIS HAPPEN?

AS THE GRIM NEWSHAWK FIXES THE TIME OF THE ATTACK ON HIM...
YOU'VE BEEN KNOCKED OUT FOR THE LAST HALF-HOUR? BUT, STEVE, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU CAME IN HERE TEN MINUTES AGO--TO SEE THE NEW DIAMOND!
I COULDN'T HAVE, LIEUTENANT! THAT WASN'T ME!


THEN, AS THE TWO MEN, WITH ONE THOUGHT, RACE INTO THE SPECIAL DIAMOND EXHIBIT ROOM...
THE DIAMOND--GONE!
WHOEVER IMPERSONATED YOU, STEVE--STOLE IT! HE WAS THE LAST PERSON IN HERE!


LATER, AFTER THE FIRST FLURRY OF EXCITEMENT HAS DIED DOWN...
WE'VE GOT TO TRACK DOWN THE THIEF, STEVE! BUT--WHAT MAKES YOU THINK IT COULD BE OUR OLD FOE--THE MASKED MASTERMIND?
IT'S THE ONLY THEORY THAT FITS, LIEUTENANT! BUT I'D BETTER EXPLAIN...

...AND AT REHEARSAL THIS MORNING, THE ACTOR MORGAN FRALEY SPOKE A CERTAIN PHRASE THAT MADE ME SUSPECT HIM! FURTHERMORE, WHEN HE MADE UP TO LOOK LIKE ME, THE EFFECT WAS SENSATIONAL! HE COULD FOOL ANYBODY!

MAKE UP TO LOOK LIKE YOU? BUT, STEVE, THE MASTERMIND DIDN'T MAKE UP--HE ACTUALLY DID LOOK LIKE YOU!

I KNOW! BUT THE WAY I FIGURE IT, MORGAN FRALEY NEVER ACTUALLY MADE UP TO LOOK LIKE ME!...

HE HAD BEEN WEARING A CLEVER DISGUISE ALL THE TIME, AND IN ORDER TO LOOK LIKE ME AT REHEARSAL THIS MORNING, HE JUST REMOVED HIS MAKE-UP!

GOSH! THEN YOU THINK FRALEY IS THE MASTERMIND--?

RIGHT! SOMEHOW HE SURVIVED THAT JUMP FROM THE BRIDGE! AS A COVER-UP, HE BECAME A TELEVISION ACTOR--

--AND NOW HE'S PULLED THE GREATEST COUP OF HIS CAREER!

YES! BUT WE MAY BE ABLE TO TRAP HIM, LIEUTENANT! IN ORDER TO CASH IN ON THE JOHANNES DIAMOND, HE'LL NEED A JEWELER--TO BREAK UP THE STONE AND SELL THE PIECES...!

I'M COUNTING ON MY FAMILIARITY WITH BIG TOWN'S UNDERWORLD TO NAB HIM! THERE'S A CERTAIN JEWELER-WATCHMAKER WHO FIXES WATCHES AND SO ON FOR CROOKS! HE'S AN OLD FELLOW NAMED POP BLISS! NOW LISTEN...

CAFE

NOT LONG AFTERWARD IN A MUSTY OLD SHOP DEEP IN THE SORDID HEART OF BIG TOWN'S UNDERWORLD...

WHEN CAN YOU HAVE THE WATCH FIXED, POP?

MONDAY! IT'LL HAVE TO BE CLEANED, DIPPER, AND THE MAINSPRING REPAIRED...

POP BLISS, I HAVE A SPECIAL JOB FOR YOU! BUT NO QUESTIONS, UNDERSTAND?
SURE! WHAT'S THE JOB?
SALE
I WANT THIS CUT UP INTO SALEABLE GEMS! CAN YOU DO IT?
HMM! NO ONE IS GOING TO CUT THAT UP, MY FRIEND! KNOW WHY?
BECAUSE I'M NOT BLISS-- I'M STEVE WILSON!
GRAB HIM, BOYS!
NOT ANYMORE!
LATER, AFTER THE DIAMOND-THIEF HAS BEEN SEIZED AND STRIPPED OF HIS DISGUISE...
IT'S THE MASTERMIND, ALL RIGHT, STEVE!
HE'S A DEAD RINGER FOR ME! HE ALWAYS WAS!
AS THE CRIMINAL IS LED AWAY...
IT'S THE END OF THE MASTERMIND, STEVE! THE REAL END THIS TIME BECAUSE HE'LL BE DOING A LONG STRETCH IN JAIL!
TIME FOR ME TO DO MY EXCLUSIVE STORY ON THIS EVENT, LIEUTENANT! I'LL BE SEEING YOU!
AS USUAL STEVE WILSON HAS EARNED HIS SCOOP! HIS STUNT FOR TRAPPING THAT DIAMOND-THIEF SURE WAS A "GEM"!
TAXI!
The End

SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
brings you
THE KINGS of COMEDY!
PHIL SILVERS
Sgt. BILKO
HEY, FANNI! ISABELLA JUST SET THE COLONEL'S HOME!
HIT TIME COLUMNS
THE ADVENTURES OF
JERRY LEWIS
AH-AH-AH! THEY SAID I COULDN'T BE IN THE GUARD... BUT NOW THAT I'M IN, I'M GONNA GET A SHOT!
BOB HOPE
DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ... DON'T EVEN BELIEVE THE STORY I'M GOING TO TELL YOU!
ISN'T THIS COLUMBUS, OHIO? WE'RE ON THE STREET OF 39 OPEN THEATRES!
EACH ISSUE A MIRTH-QUAKE!
JACKIE GLEASON
and the HONEYMOONERS
HEY, RALPH! BOY, WAS I IN A TRANCE YET!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE... WITH MINE IT'S HARD TO TELL!
ASK FOR THESE MAGAZINES AT YOUR FAVORITE NEWSSTAND!
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
The LINE of STARS!

WANTED: A TEEN-AGE CODE

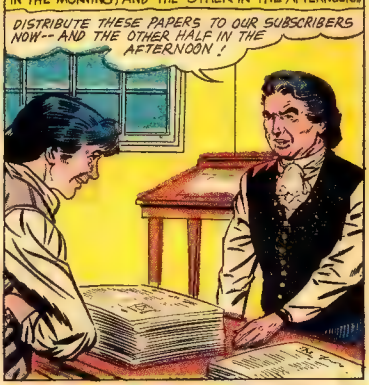
LISTEN, DAVE, YOU KNOW SALLY PERKINS. I HEAR SHE'S HAVING A PARTY-- LET'S CRASH IT!
GOSH, I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD... I WASN'T INVITED!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DAVE? YOU CHICKEN?
COME ON, DAVE, WE'LL HAVE A LOT OF FUN!
WHY... HELLO, DAVE. I--I HADN'T EXPECTED TO SEE YOU.
WELL--ER--WE JUST STOPPED BY, SALLY, BUT WE DON'T WANT TO BUTT IN. GUESS WE'D BETTER LEAVE.
OH, NO, WE'RE GOING TO STAY-- THIS LOOKS LIKE A GOOD PARTY!
HEY, LET'S GET THESE PARTY-CRASHERS OUT OF HERE. SOME NERVE!
DAVE!
NEXT DAY...
I REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE COME TO MEET YOU, DAVE, AFTER YOU SPOILED MY PARTY. WHY DID YOU COME WHEN YOU WEREN'T INVITED?
JUST A CRAZY NOTION OF ONE OF THE FELLOWS. I GUESS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A LOT EASIER FOR ME TO SAY NO IF I'D HAD SOME KIND OF CODE TO GO BY--SOMETHING WE'D ALL AGREED ON!
THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU, SALLY. LET'S START A MOVE IN THE STUDENT ORGANIZATION TO MAKE UP A TEEN-AGE CODE--YOU KNOW, A SORT OF GUIDE ON THE RIGHT WAY TO BEHAVE!
SWELL IDEA, DAVE--AND BETTER THAN ANY APOLOGY YOU COULD HAVE MADE!

PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U. S.

NEWSPAPER Flashes!

FOUNDED IN 1866, AT KEARNY CITY, NEBRASKA TERRITORY, THE ***FRONTIER INDEX*** WAS PUBLISHED IN 25 DIFFERENT SETTLEMENTS ALONG THE WESTERN TRAIL TO NORTH YAKIMA, WASHINGTON. THE PRINTING PRESS, PAPER, AND PERSONNEL WERE TRANSPORTED IN 3 OX-DRAWN CARTS...

THE ***NEW WORLD*** (PHILADELPHIA, 1796) WAS THE FIRST NEWSPAPER TO HAVE TWO DAILY EDITIONS. ACTUALLY, THE PAPER PRINTED BOTH EDITIONS AT THE SAME TIME -- THE FIRST PART WAS CIRCULATED IN THE MORNING, AND THE OTHER IN THE AFTERNOON.



ONE OF THE MOST UNIQUE AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS WAS THE ***DRAMATIC CHRONICLE*** (FIRST PUBLISHED JUNE 16, 1860, IN SAN FRANCISCO). IT WAS MADE UP TO RESEMBLE A ***PLAYBILL*** AND WAS DISTRIBUTED FREE IN THEATERS AND OTHER PLACES OF AMUSEMENTS...

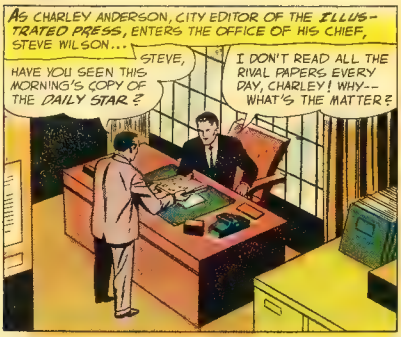
IT WASN'T UNTIL THE 1830'S, WHEN THE NEW YORK ***SUN*** LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN FOR SALARIED FIREMEN THAT A MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPARTMENT WAS ESTABLISHED. PRIOR TO THAT TIME, RIVAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES OFTEN DESTROYED EACH OTHER'S APPARATUS IN THEIR EAGERNESS TO BE THE FIRST TO REACH A BURNING BUILDING...

BIG TOWN

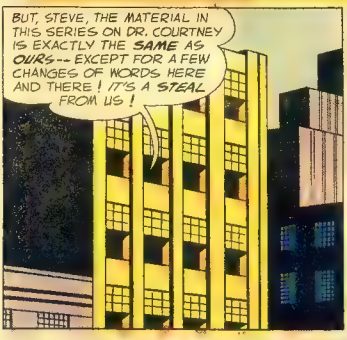
I'VE GOT TO CATCH THAT CIGARETTE BUTT BEFORE IT DISAPPEARS! THE LIFE OF ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST FAMOUS SCIENTISTS MAY BE LOST IF I FAIL!

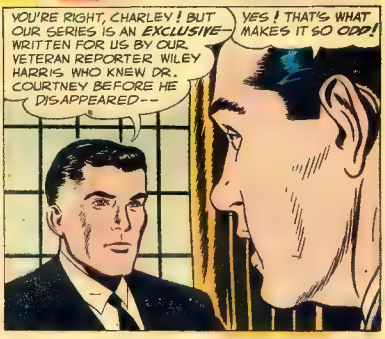
WILEY HARRIS, CRACK NEWSHAWK OF THE *ILLUSTRATED PRESS*, KNEW A RED-HOT CLUE WHEN HE SAW ONE--AND HE HAD GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A CERTAIN CIGARETTE COULD LEAD HIM TO BREAK THE BIGGEST STORY OF THE YEAR--A STORY DEALING WITH A SITUATION SO DANGEROUS THAT WILEY HARRIS HAD TO WORK ON IT UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME IN ORDER TO PROTECT HIMSELF! WHICH MADE WILEY HARRIS...

The SECRET REPORTER of the ILLUSTRATED PRESS!


AS CHARLEY ANDERSON, CITY EDITOR OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS, ENTERS THE OFFICE OF HIS CHIEF, STEVE WILSON...
STEVE, HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MORNING'S COPY OF THE DAILY STAR?
I DON'T READ ALL THE RIVAL PAPERS EVERY DAY, CHARLEY! WHY-- WHAT'S THE MATTER?

LOOK!
SO THEY'RE RUNNING THE SAME STORY WE ARE--ONLY WE CALL OURS THE LIFE OF DR. COURTNEY! WELL--SO WHAT, CHARLEY? THERE'S NO LAW AGAINST THAT...
DAILY STAR
THE STORY OF DR. COURTNEY
FOURTH INSTALLMENT

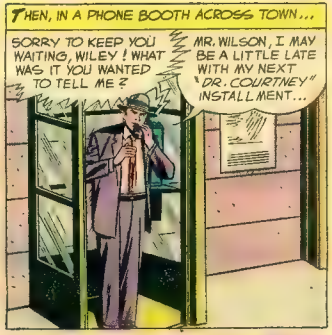

BUT, STEVE, THE MATERIAL IN THIS SERIES ON DR. COURTNEY IS EXACTLY THE SAME AS OURS--EXCEPT FOR A FEW CHANGES OF WORDS HERE AND THERE! IT'S A STEAL FROM US!

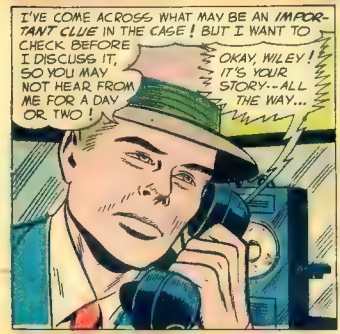

YOU'RE RIGHT, CHARLEY! BUT OUR SERIES IS AN EXCLUSIVE WRITTEN FOR US BY OUR VETERAN REPORTER WILEY HARRIS WHO KNEW DR. COURTNEY BEFORE HE DISAPPEARED--
YES! THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT SO ODD!

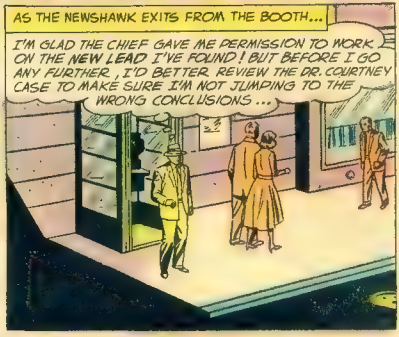
STEVE, YOU DON'T THINK THAT HARRIS COULD POSSIBLY BE SELLING THE MATERIAL HE'S GATHERING TO THE STAR AS WELL AS TO US?
GOSH, I CAN'T BELIEVE WILEY COULD-- EXCUSE ME--MY PHONE!
RING!
RING!

OH, HELLO--WILEY!
IT'S WILEY HARRIS CALLING IN ABOUT HIS COURTNEY SERIES! IF I'M GOING TO TAKE HIM OFF THE STORY, I'VE GOT TO DO IT NOW! I'VE GOT TO MAKE UP MY MIND!

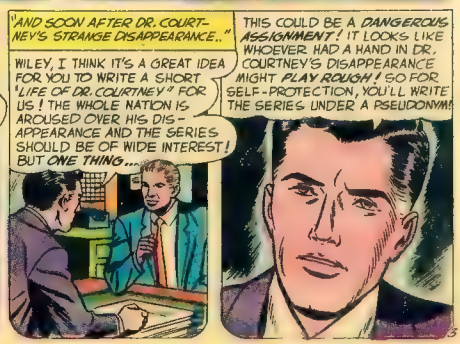
CHARLEY, I'M GOING TO STRING ALONG WITH HARRIS! I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'D PULL AN UNDERHANDED TRICK LIKE THAT--
OKAY, STEVE, BUT I HOPE YOU WON'T REGRET IT!


THEN, IN A PHONE BOOTH ACROSS TOWN...
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, WILEY! WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED TO TELL ME?
MR. WILSON, I MAY BE A LITTLE LATE WITH MY NEXT "DR. COURTNEY" INSTALLMENT...

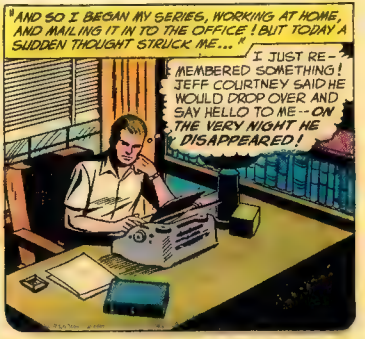

I'VE COME ACROSS WHAT MAY BE AN IMPORTANT CLUE IN THE CASE! BUT I WANT TO CHECK BEFORE I DISCUSS IT, SO YOU MAY NOT HEAR FROM ME FOR A DAY OR TWO!
OKAY, WILEY! IT'S YOUR STORY--ALL THE WAY...

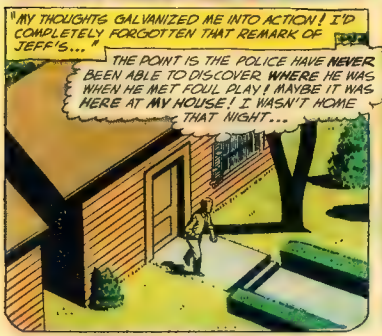

AS THE NEWSHAWK EXITS FROM THE BOOTH...
I'M GLAD THE CHIEF GAVE ME PERMISSION TO WORK ON THE NEW LEAD I'VE FOUND! BUT BEFORE I GO ANY FURTHER, I'D BETTER REVIEW THE DR. COURTNEY CASE TO MAKE SURE I'M NOT JUMPING TO THE WRONG CONCLUSIONS...

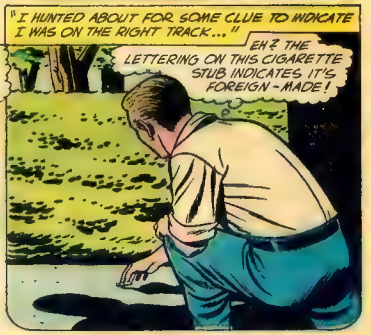
"DR. COURTNEY WAS A CLOSE FRIEND OF MINE WHO DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE TWO WEEKS AGO! HE WAS A WELL-KNOWN SCIENTIST..."
WHY DID YOU GO TO WASHINGTON, DR. COURTNEY? ANYTHING TO DO WITH A SECRET PROJECT?
SORRY, BOYS! NO COMMENT!

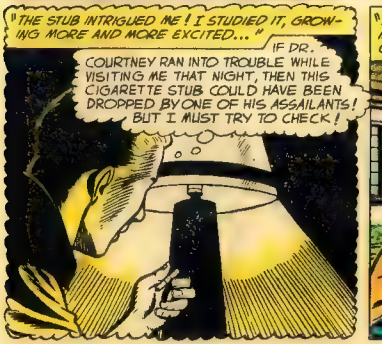

"AND SOON AFTER DR. COURTNEY'S STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE..."
WILEY, I THINK IT'S A GREAT IDEA FOR YOU TO WRITE A SHORT "LIFE OF DR. COURTNEY" FOR US! THE WHOLE NATION IS AROUSED OVER HIS DISAPPEARANCE AND THE SERIES SHOULD BE OF WIDE INTEREST! BUT ONE THING...
THIS COULD BE A DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENT! IT LOOKS LIKE WHOEVER HAD A HAND IN DR. COURTNEY'S DISAPPEARANCE MIGHT PLAY ROUGH! SO FOR SELF-PROTECTION, YOU'LL WRITE THE SERIES UNDER A PSEUDONYM!

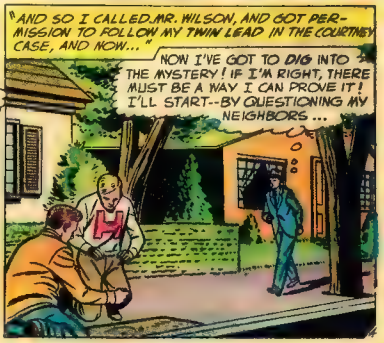
"IT WAS ARRANGED THAT I WOULD WRITE THE SERIES IN SECRET..."
WRITING AT HOME, WILEY--AND ONLY COMMUNICATE WITH ME WHEN NECESSARY BY PHONE!
YOU'LL DO THE
CHECK, MR. WILSON!


"AND SO I BEGAN MY SERIES, WORKING AT HOME, AND MAILING IT IN TO THE OFFICE! BUT TODAY A SUDDEN THOUGHT STRUCK ME..."
I JUST RE-MEMBERED SOMETHING! JEFF COURTNEY SAID HE WOULD DROP OVER AND SAY HELLO TO ME--ON THE VERY NIGHT HE DISAPPEARED!

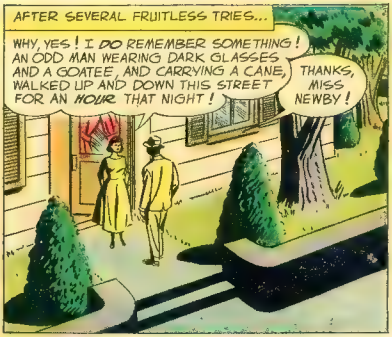

"MY THOUGHTS GALVANIZED ME INTO ACTION! I'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN THAT REMARK OF JEFF'S..."
THE POINT IS THE POLICE HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DISCOVER WHERE HE WAS WHEN HE MET FOUL PLAY! MAYBE IT WAS HERE AT MY HOUSE! I WASN'T HOME THAT NIGHT...

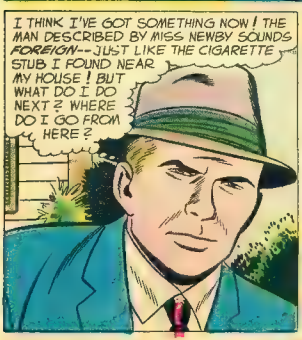

"I HUNTED ABOUT FOR SOME CLUE TO INDICATE I WAS ON THE RIGHT TRACK..."
EH? THE LETTERING ON THIS CIGARETTE STUB INDICATES IT'S FOREIGN-MADE!

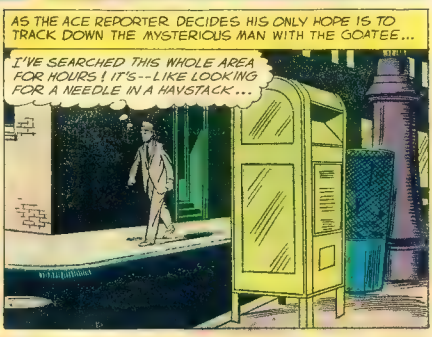

"THE STUB INTRIGUED ME! I STUDIED IT, GROWING MORE AND MORE EXCITED..."
IF DR. COURTNEY RAN INTO TROUBLE WHILE VISITING ME THAT NIGHT, THEN THIS CIGARETTE STUB COULD HAVE BEEN DROPPED BY ONE OF HIS ASSAILANTS! BUT I MUST TRY TO CHECK!

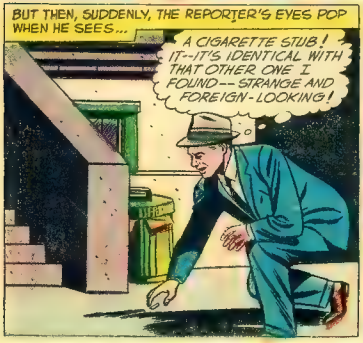

"AND SO I CALLED MR. WILSON, AND GOT PERMISSION TO FOLLOW MY TWIN LEAD IN THE COURTNEY CASE, AND NOW..."
NOW I'VE GOT TO DIG INTO THE MYSTERY! IF I'M RIGHT, THERE MUST BE A WAY I CAN PROVE IT! I'LL START--BY QUESTIONING MY NEIGHBORS...

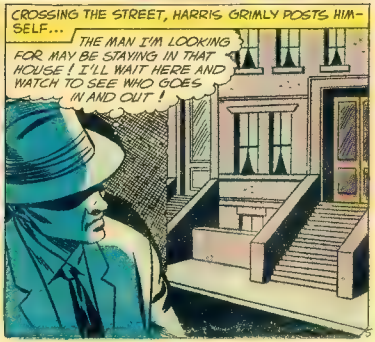
SOON... NO, MR. HARRIS! I DIDN'T SEE ANY-ONE UNUSUAL ON THIS STREET OR NEAR YOUR HOUSE ON THAT NIGHT YOU MENTION...


AFTER SEVERAL FRUITLESS TRIES...
WHY, YES! I DO REMEMBER SOMETHING! AN ODD MAN WEARING DARK GLASSES AND A GOATEE, AND CARRYING A CANE, WALKED UP AND DOWN THIS STREET FOR AN HOUR THAT NIGHT!
THANKS, MISS NEWBY!


I THINK I'VE GOT SOMETHING NOW! THE MAN DESCRIBED BY MISS NEWBY SOUNDS FOREIGN--JUST LIKE THE CIGARETTE STUB I FOUND NEAR MY HOUSE! BUT WHAT DO I DO NEXT? WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?


AS THE ACE REPORTER DECIDES HIS ONLY HOPE IS TO TRACK DOWN THE MYSTERIOUS MAN WITH THE GOATEE...
I'VE SEARCHED THIS WHOLE AREA FOR HOURS! IT'S--LIKE LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK...

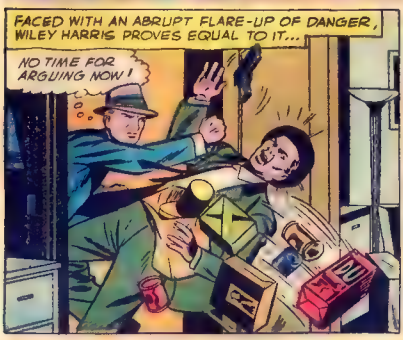

BUT THEN, SUDDENLY, THE REPORTER'S EYES POP WHEN HE SEES...
A CIGARETTE STUB! IT--IT'S IDENTICAL WITH THAT OTHER ONE I FOUND--STRANGE AND FOREIGN-LOOKING!

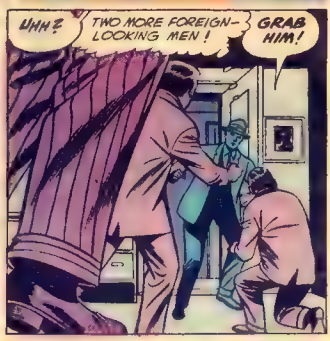

CROSSING THE STREET, HARRIS GRIMLY POSTS HIM-SELF...
THE MAN I'M LOOKING FOR MAY BE STAYING IN THAT HOUSE! I'LL WAIT HERE AND WATCH TO SEE WHO GOES IN AND OUT!

NOT LONG AFTER...
THERE'S A MAN WITH A CANE-- AND HE LOOKS SOMEWHAT LIKE THE ONE MISS NEWBY DESCRIBED! BUT HE HASN'T A GOATEE OR DARK GLASSES! WAIT A SECOND--
HE'S LIGHTING A CIGARETTE! IF-- IF THAT CIGARETTE IS THE SAME AS THE ONES I'VE FOUND, THEN I'LL KNOW I'M ON SOME KIND OF TRAIL! I'VE GOT TO FOLLOW HIM-- WAIT TILL HE THROWS AWAY THE BUTT--!
CAN'T LET HIM OUT OF MY SIGHT! HE'S BOUND TO TOSS IT AWAY ANY MOMENT NOW...
THEN ...
THERE IT GOES-- ROLLING TOWARD THAT GRATING --
WITH A FURIOUS BURST OF SPEED, THE REPORTER PLUNGES FORWARD...
GOT IT!
GRIMLY, HARRIS MATCHES HIS NEW FIND WITH THE OLDER ONES...
THEY ALL MATCH! THIS MAN WAS ON MY BLOCK-- NEAR MY HOUSE! HE COULD BE INVOLVED IN DR. COURTNEY'S DIS- APPEARANCE! I KNOW WHAT I MUST DO NOW!

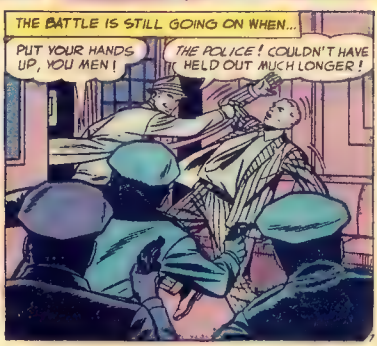
AFTER PUTTING THROUGH A QUICK CALL TO THE POLICE, THE NEWSHAWK FOLLOWS THE MYSTERY MAN BACK TO HIS HOUSE...
GOING INTO THAT APARTMENT! I GAVE THE POLICE THIS STREET NUMBER, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THE APARTMENT...

SUDDENLY...
WHY HAVE YOU BEEN FOLLOWING ME? YOU'LL ANSWER THAT--INSIDE!
DREW A GUN ON ME!


FACED WITH AN ABRUPT FLARE-UP OF DANGER, WILEY HARRIS PROVES EQUAL TO IT...
NO TIME FOR ARGUING NOW!


UHH?
TWO MORE FOREIGN-LOOKING MEN!
GRAB HIM!

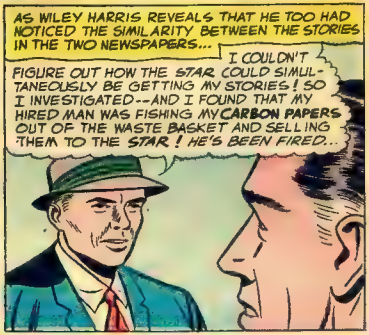
BUT BEFORE THE OTHERS CAN ATTACK...
THIS MUST BE THE GANG THAT CAPTURED DR. COURTNEY! I'VE GOT TO KEEP THEM HERE--UNTIL HELP ARRIVES!


THE BATTLE IS STILL GOING ON WHEN...
PUT YOUR HANDS UP, YOU MEN!
THE POLICE! COULDN'T HAVE HELD OUT MUCH LONGER!

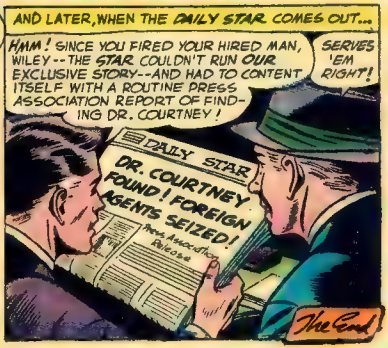
MOMENTS LATER, AFTER THE REPORTER HAS FOUND HIS FAMOUS FRIEND LOCKED IN AN ADJOINING ROOM...
YES, WILEY! THOSE MEN ARE AGENTS OF A FOREIGN POWER! THEY SEIZED ME AND HELD ME PRISONER BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN WORKING ON A DEVICE TO COUNTER GUIDED MISSILES--AND THEY TRIED TO GET THE SECRET FROM ME!

BUT I WOULDN'T TALK--AND NOW I'M FREE, THANKS TO YOU!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE UNHARMED, JEFF! BUT NOW--I'VE GOT A BIG EXCLUSIVE STORY TO WRITE FOR THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS!

LATER, IN STEVE WILSON'S OFFICE...
IT'S A GREAT STORY, WILEY! BUT--I WONDER IF THE DAILY STAR WILL RUN THE SAME THING WHEN IT COMES OUT IN ANOTHER FEW MINUTES--!
I DOUBT IT, MR. WILSON! LET ME EXPLAIN...
DR. COURTNEY FOUND!


AS WILEY HARRIS REVEALS THAT HE TOO HAD NOTICED THE SIMILARITY BETWEEN THE STORIES IN THE TWO NEWSPAPERS...
I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT HOW THE STAR COULD SIMULTANEOUSLY BE GETTING MY STORIES! SO I INVESTIGATED--AND I FOUND THAT MY HIRED MAN WAS FISHING MY CARBON PAPERS OUT OF THE WASTE BASKET AND SELLING THEM TO THE STAR! HE'S BEEN FIRED...

SO THAT WAS IT! THE STAR WAS UP TO TRICKS, EH? WELL, THEY SAY ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE OR WAR--AND THAT COULD INCLUDE NEWSPAPER RIVALRY--BUT THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS WOULD NEVER STOOP TO SUCH TACTICS!


AND LATER, WHEN THE DAILY STAR COMES OUT...
HMM! SINCE YOU FIRED YOUR HIRED MAN, WILEY--THE STAR COULDN'T RUN OUR EXCLUSIVE STORY--AND HAD TO CONTENT ITSELF WITH A ROUTINE PRESS ASSOCIATION REPORT OF FINDING DR. COURTNEY!
SERVES 'EM RIGHT!
DAILY STAR
DR. COURTNEY FOUND! FOREIGN AGENTS SEIZED!
Press Association Release
The End

NEW ALUMINUM PACKAGE

keeps GOOD LUCK Fresher and Better Tasting

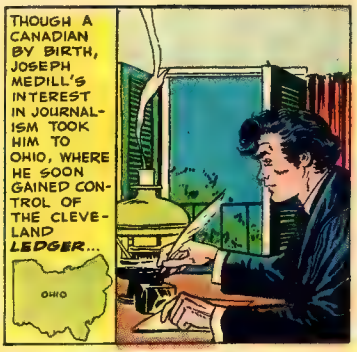
than any other margarine!

BUY IT we know you'll agree! GOOD LUCK margarine *stays fresher* and *tastes better* than any other margarine because GOOD LUCK is the *only* margarine double wrapped and sealed in Reynolds Wrap Aluminum foil.

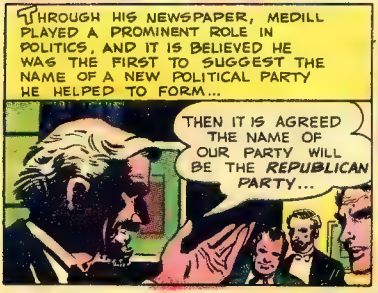
First we wrap each quarter pound of GOOD LUCK in pure aluminum. Next we place the four quarters in a waxed carton. *Then we wrap the carton in an outer wrap of shiny aluminum foil* and seal it tight. This keeps GOOD LUCK fresher and better tasting than any other margarine.

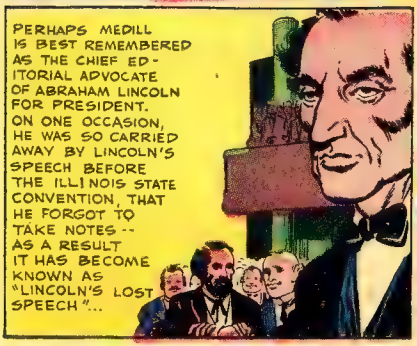
We guarantee that you'll like GOOD LUCK in its new aluminum package better than any other spread you've ever tasted or we'll refund your money.

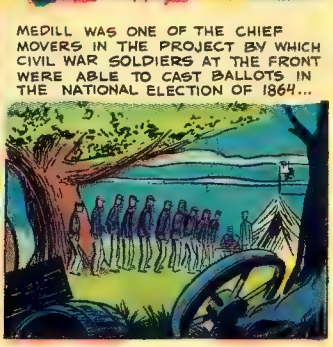
If you don't agree, just drop a line to Lever Brothers Company, 390 Park Avenue, New York 22, N.Y., enclosing the guarantee panel from the GOOD LUCK package. We'll send you every penny you paid


THOUGH A CANADIAN BY BIRTH, JOSEPH MEDILL'S INTEREST IN JOURNALISM TOOK HIM TO OHIO, WHERE HE SOON GAINED CONTROL OF THE CLEVELAND LEDGER...
OHIO

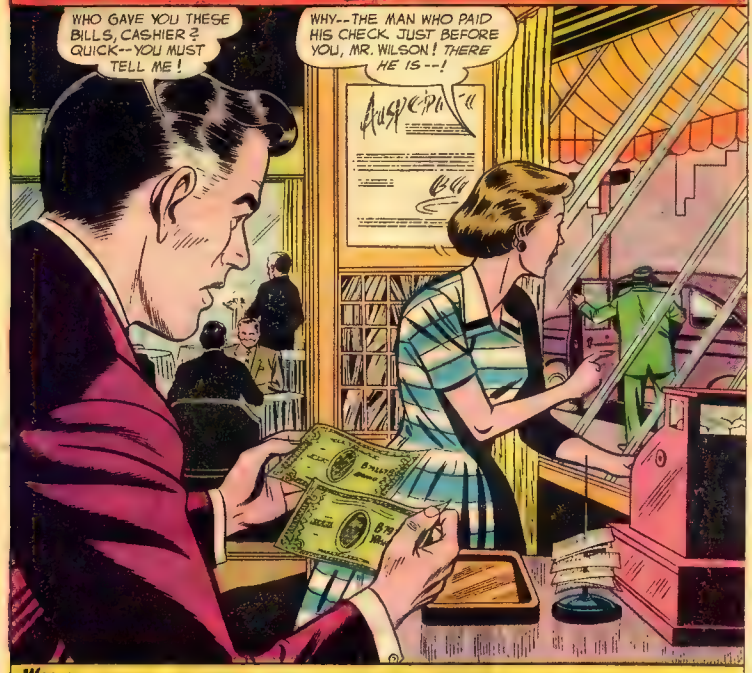
IN 1855, HE GAINED AN INTEREST IN THE CHICAGO **TRIBUNE**, AND TURNED THE PAPER INTO A LIVELY NEWS MEDIUM THAT QUICKLY GAINED FAVOR WITH THE PUBLIC...


THROUGH HIS NEWSPAPER, MEDILL PLAYED A PROMINENT ROLE IN POLITICS, AND IT IS BELIEVED HE WAS THE FIRST TO SUGGEST THE NAME OF A NEW POLITICAL PARTY HE HELPED TO FORM...
THEN IT IS AGREED THE NAME OF OUR PARTY WILL BE THE REPUBLICAN PARTY...


PERHAPS MEDILL IS BEST REMEMBERED AS THE CHIEF EDITORIAL ADVOCATE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN FOR PRESIDENT. ON ONE OCCASION, HE WAS SO CARRIED AWAY BY LINCOLN'S SPEECH BEFORE THE ILLINOIS STATE CONVENTION, THAT HE FORGOT TO TAKE NOTES -- AS A RESULT IT HAS BECOME KNOWN AS "LINCOLN'S LOST SPEECH"...

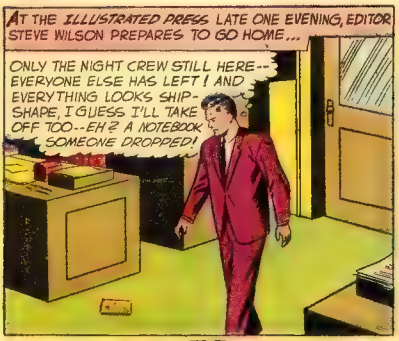

MEDILL WAS ONE OF THE CHIEF MOVERS IN THE PROJECT BY WHICH CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS AT THE FRONT WERE ABLE TO CAST BALLOTS IN THE NATIONAL ELECTION OF 1864...

BIG TOWN

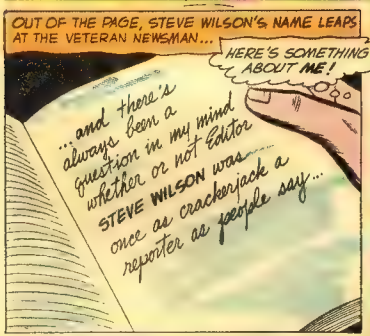


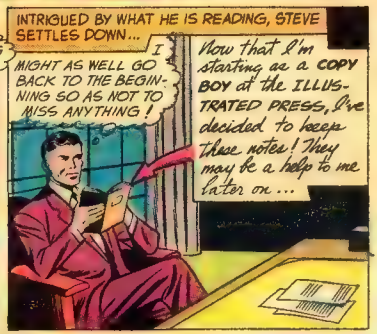
WAS IT A CHANCE--OR SHEER NEWSMAN INSTINCT--THAT PROMPTED STEVE WILSON TO NOTICE IN THE CHANGE HANDED HIM BY A RESTAURANT CASHIER TWO FIVE-DOLLAR BILLS WITH THE **IDENTICAL SERIAL NUMBER!** WITH HIS CURIOSITY AROUSED, THE VETERAN NEWSHAWK PROCEEDED TO TRACK THE BILLS TO THEIR SOURCE--ALONG A TRAIL OF DANGER AND MYSTERY IN...

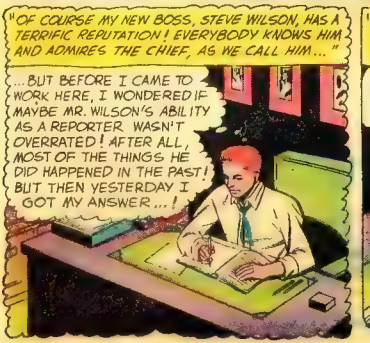
The CASE OF THE COUNTERFEIT CLUE!

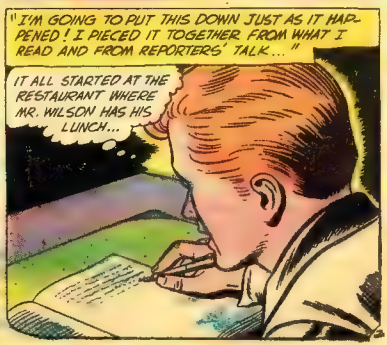

AT THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS LATE ONE EVENING, EDITOR STEVE WILSON PREPARES TO GO HOME...
ONLY THE NIGHT CREW STILL HERE--EVERYONE ELSE HAS LEFT! AND EVERYTHING LOOKS SHIP-SHAPE, I GUESS I'LL TAKE OFF TOO--EH? A NOTEBOOK SOMEONE DROPPED!

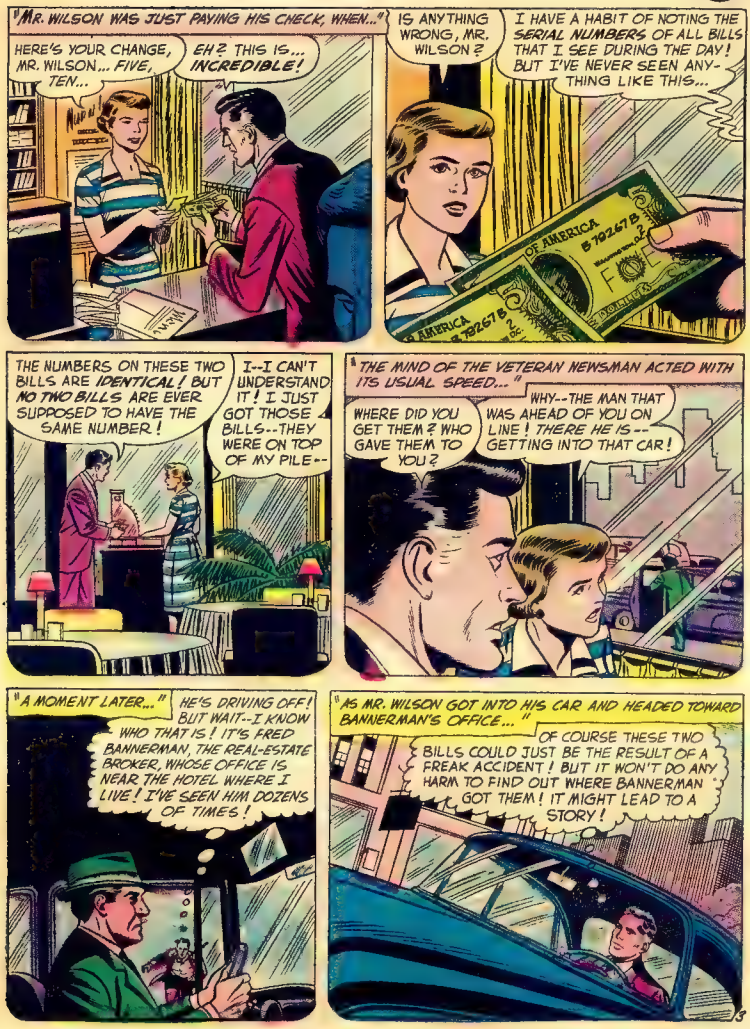
AS STEVE PICKS UP THE NOTEBOOK...
WHY, IT'S A DAY BOOK--A BOOK OF NOTES BEING KEPT BY HAL GRANT, OUR NEW COPY BOY! GUESS I'LL PUT IT BACK--WAIT A MOMENT!...

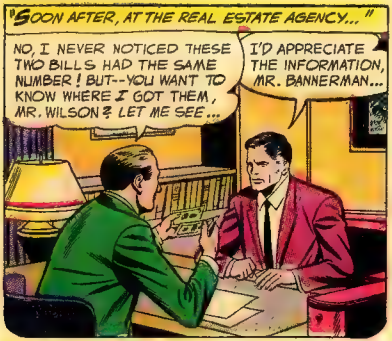

OUT OF THE PAGE, STEVE WILSON'S NAME LEAPS AT THE VETERAN NEWSMAN...
HERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT ME!
...and there's always been a question in my mind whether or not Editor STEVE WILSON was once a crackerjack a reporter as people say...


INTRIGUED BY WHAT HE IS READING, STEVE SETTLES DOWN...
I MIGHT AS WELL GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING SO AS NOT TO MISS ANYTHING!
Now that I'm starting as a COPY BOY at the ILLUSTRATED PRESS, I've decided to keep these notes! They may be a help to me later on...

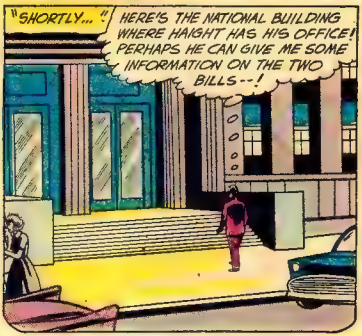

"OF COURSE MY NEW BOSS, STEVE WILSON, HAS A TERRIFIC REPUTATION! EVERYBODY KNOWS HIM AND ADMIRES THE CHIEF, AS WE CALL HIM..."
...BUT BEFORE I CAME TO WORK HERE, I WONDERED IF MAYBE MR. WILSON'S ABILITY AS A REPORTER WASN'T OVERRATED! AFTER ALL, MOST OF THE THINGS HE DID HAPPENED IN THE PAST! BUT THEN YESTERDAY I GOT MY ANSWER...!

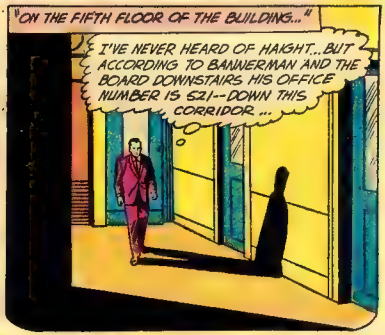

"I'M GOING TO PUT THIS DOWN JUST AS IT HAPPENED! I PIECED IT TOGETHER FROM WHAT I READ AND FROM REPORTERS' TALK..."
IT ALL STARTED AT THE RESTAURANT WHERE MR. WILSON HAS HIS LUNCH...


"MR. WILSON WAS JUST PAYING HIS CHECK, WHEN..."
HERE'S YOUR CHANGE, MR. WILSON... FIVE, TEN...
EH? THIS IS... INCREDIBLE!
IS ANYTHING WRONG, MR. WILSON?
I HAVE A HABIT OF NOTING THE SERIAL NUMBERS OF ALL BILLS THAT I SEE DURING THE DAY! BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS...
THE NUMBERS ON THESE TWO BILLS ARE IDENTICAL! BUT NO TWO BILLS ARE EVER SUPPOSED TO HAVE THE SAME NUMBER!
I--I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! I JUST GOT THOSE BILLS--THEY WERE ON TOP OF MY PILE--
"THE MIND OF THE VETERAN NEWSMAN ACTED WITH ITS USUAL SPEED..."
WHERE DID YOU GET THEM? WHO GAVE THEM TO YOU?
WHY--THE MAN THAT WAS AHEAD OF YOU ON LINE! THERE HE IS--GETTING INTO THAT CAR!
"A MOMENT LATER..."
HE'S DRIVING OFF! BUT WAIT--I KNOW WHO THAT IS! IT'S FRED BANNERMAN, THE REAL-ESTATE BROKER, WHOSE OFFICE IS NEAR THE HOTEL WHERE I LIVE! I'VE SEEN HIM DOZENS OF TIMES!
"AS MR. WILSON GOT INTO HIS CAR AND HEADED TOWARD BANNERMAN'S OFFICE..."
OF COURSE THESE TWO BILLS COULD JUST BE THE RESULT OF A FREAK ACCIDENT! BUT IT WON'T DO ANY HARM TO FIND OUT WHERE BANNERMAN GOT THEM! IT MIGHT LEAD TO A STORY!


"SOON AFTER, AT THE REAL ESTATE AGENCY..."
NO, I NEVER NOTICED THESE TWO BILLS HAD THE SAME NUMBER! BUT--YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE I GOT THEM, MR. WILSON? LET ME SEE...
I'D APPRECIATE THE INFORMATION, MR. BANNERMAN...

AH, YES, I REMEMBER NOW! I GOT THEM FROM... WILLARD HAIGHT, THE INSURANCE AGENT! HE WAS IN HERE THIS MORNING TO COLLECT MY PREMIUM! THE FIVE-DOLLAR BILLS WERE MY CHANGE!
HAIGHT? COULD YOU GIVE ME HIS ADDRESS?


"SHORTLY..."
HERE'S THE NATIONAL BUILDING WHERE HAIGHT HAS HIS OFFICE! PERHAPS HE CAN GIVE ME SOME INFORMATION ON THE TWO BILLS--!

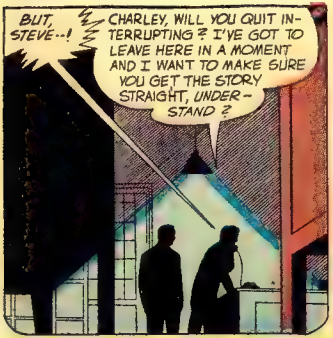

"ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF THE BUILDING..."
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF HAIGHT.. BUT ACCORDING TO BANNERMAN AND THE BOARD DOWNSTAIRS HIS OFFICE NUMBER IS 521--DOWN THIS CORRIDOR...

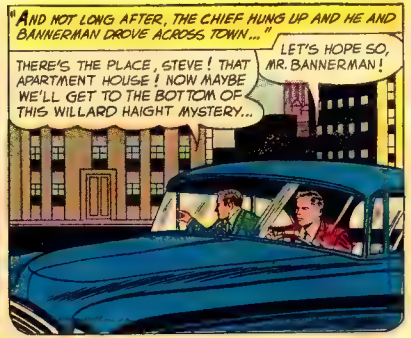
"THEN, WITHOUT THE LEAST WARNING..."

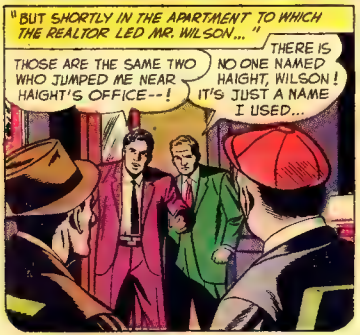
"TAKEN BY SURPRISE, THE VETERAN NEWSHAWK WAS KNOCKED OFF HIS FEET..."
...WHY DID THOSE TWO THUGS ATTACK ME... GOT TO FIND OUT... FIGHT BACK...

"WITH A SUPERHUMAN EFFORT, STEVE REGAINED HIS FEET SO FAST, HIS ATTACKERS HAD NO TIME TO FOLLOW UP THEIR ADVANTAGE..."
THIS GUY IS TOO TOUGH, JOE! I'M GONNA LET HIM HAVE IT!
"BUT BEFORE THE GUN COULD BE BROUGHT INTO PLAY..."
HE'S A POWER-HOUSE! LET'S GET OUTA HERE!
"IN A FLASH, THE TWO THUGS DISAPPEARED..."
THEY RAN FOR IT--MUST HAVE GONE DOWN ONE OF THESE EXIT STAIR-WAYS! BUT WHICH SIDE--?
EVATOR
EXIT
EXIT
"THEN, AS MR. WILSON STOOD THERE, MOMENTARILY UNDECIDED, THE ELEVATOR DOOR OPENED..."
BANNERMAN!? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I CAME TO SEE MR. HAIGHT! BUT--WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
"AFTER THE CHIEF TOLD OF THE ATTACK ON HIM..."
THAT'S AWFUL! THEY MUST HAVE BEEN TWO OLD ENEMIES OF YOURS! YOU NEWSPAPERMEN DO MAKE ENEMIES, DON'T YOU?
SOMETIMES--BUT THESE THUGS WERE COMPLETE STRANGERS--!
HERE'S 52!... I'VE NEVER BEEN IN HAIGHT'S OFFICE, ALTHOUGH HE'S OFTEN INVITED ME UP! FINALLY, TODAY, YOUR VISIT REMINDED ME... AND I DECIDED TO ACCEPT HIS INVITATION!
52

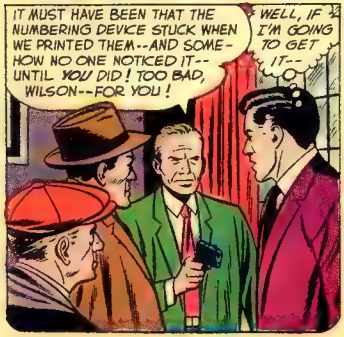
"AS THE TWO MEN ENTERED THE OFFICE..."
DOOR'S OPEN--BUT THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYONE HERE! WAIT A SECOND, MR. WILSON, TILL I TURN ON THE LIGHT SWITCH...
THAT'S ODD--!
YES, ISN'T IT? THIS OFFICE DOESN'T SEEM OCCUPIED! THERE'S NO SIGN THAT ANYONE USES IT!
152
CLICK!
"AS THE DUO SEARCHED THE OFFICE..."
NOTHING HERE! NO PAPERS... NO FILES! WHAT KIND OF A BUSINESS DOES THIS HAIGHT RUN ANYWAY?
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO FIND OUT!
COME ON, I KNOW WHERE WE MAY FIND HIM! I HAVE HIS HOME ADDRESS, NOT FAR FROM HERE!
WAIT, BEFORE WE LEAVE, THERE'S ONE THING I MUST ATTEND TO, MR. BANNERMAN!
152
I'VE GOT TO PHONE IN THE STORY OF THAT ATTACK ON ME TO MY PAPER! AFTER ALL, IT'S A NEWS ITEM! IT WON'T TAKE A MINUTE, IF YOU DON'T MIND...
SURE--I'LL WAIT--
"WHEN THE CHIEF GOT HIS PARTY..."
BUT...
CITY EDITOR, PLEASE... CHARLEY? THIS IS STEVE WILSON! NOW GET THIS, CHARLEY--I WAS ATTACKED BY TWO UNKNOWN THUGS IN THE NATIONAL BUILDING TEN MINUTES AGO...

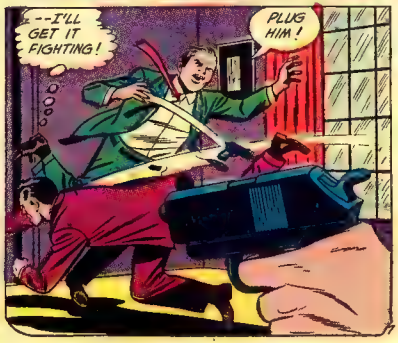

BUT, STEVE--!
CHARLEY, WILL YOU QUIT INTERRUPTING? I'VE GOT TO LEAVE HERE IN A MOMENT AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU GET THE STORY STRAIGHT, UNDERSTAND?


"AND NOT LONG AFTER, THE CHIEF HUNG UP AND HE AND BANNERMAN DROVE ACROSS TOWN..."
THERE'S THE PLACE, STEVE! THAT APARTMENT HOUSE! NOW MAYBE WE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS WILLARD HAIGHT MYSTERY...
LET'S HOPE SO, MR. BANNERMAN!


"BUT SHORTLY IN THE APARTMENT TO WHICH THE REALTOR LED MR. WILSON..."
THOSE ARE THE SAME TWO WHO JUMPED ME NEAR HAIGHT'S OFFICE--!
THERE IS NO ONE NAMED HAIGHT, WILSON! IT'S JUST A NAME I USED...

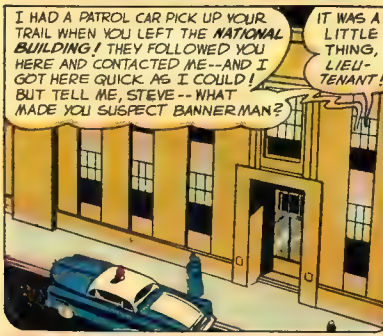
YOU--!?
THIS IS ONE TIME YOUR SNOOPING TACTICS HAVE LANDED YOU IN REAL TROUBLE, WILSON! THOSE TWO BILLS YOU SPOTTED WERE TURNED OUT BY THE COUNTERFEIT RING WHICH I HEAD!


IT MUST HAVE BEEN THAT THE NUMBERING DEVICE STUCK WHEN WE PRINTED THEM--AND SOMEHOW NO ONE NOTICED IT--UNTIL YOU DID! TOO BAD, WILSON--FOR YOU!
WELL, IF I'M GOING TO GET IT--

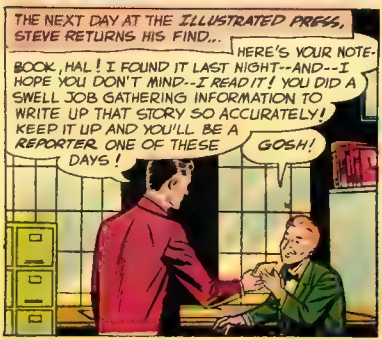

--I'LL GET IT FIGHTING!
PLUG HIM!

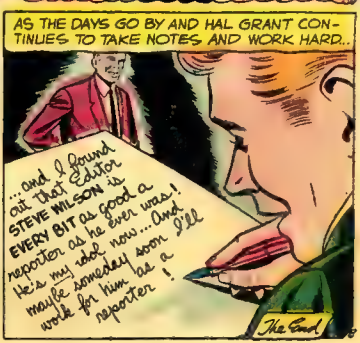
"BUT BEFORE ANYONE ELSE IN THE ROOM COULD MOVE, THE DOOR BURST OPEN AND.. "
POLICE!?
THROW DOWN YOUR GUNS! ALL OF YOU!
WHEW! I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER GET HERE, LT. GREGGORY!

"SEEING THE FUTILITY OF STRUGGLE, THE GANG SURRENDERED... "
...AND WHEN I KEPT TELLING YOU ON THE PHONE I WASN'T CHARLEY ANDERSON... AND YOU PERSISTED IN CALLING ME "CHARLEY"--WELL, I KNEW THAT THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMEONE IN THE ROOM WITH YOU AND YOU COULDN'T TALK!
I PRETENDED TO CALL MY OFFICE, BUT I REALLY CALLED YOU, LIEUTENANT!


I HAD A PATROL CAR PICK UP YOUR TRAIL WHEN YOU LEFT THE NATIONAL BUILDING! THEY FOLLOWED YOU HERE AND CONTACTED ME--AND I GOT HERE QUICK AS I COULD! BUT TELL ME, STEVE--WHAT MADE YOU SUSPECT BANNERMAN?
IT WAS A LITTLE THING, LIEUTENANT!

BANNERMAN SAID HE'D NEVER BEEN IN HAIGHT'S OFFICE BEFORE! YET HE WENT RIGHT TO THE LIGHT SWITCH AS IF HE'D BEEN THERE SEVERAL TIMES--EVEN THOUGH IT WAS PLACED IN AN UNUSUAL SPOT BEHIND THE DOOR!


THE NEXT DAY AT THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS, STEVE RETURNS HIS FIND..
HERE'S YOUR NOTEBOOK, HAL! I FOUND IT LAST NIGHT--AND--I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND--I READ IT! YOU DID A SWELL JOB GATHERING INFORMATION TO WRITE UP THAT STORY SO ACCURATELY! KEEP IT UP AND YOU'LL BE A REPORTER ONE OF THESE DAYS!
GOSH!


AS THE DAYS GO BY AND HAL GRANT CONTINUES TO TAKE NOTES AND WORK HARD..
...And I found out that Editor STEVE NILSON is EVERY BIT as good a reporter as he ever was! He's my idol now... And maybe someday soon I'll work for him as a reporter!
The End

CASEY
THE COP
HELLO, DOGGIE! WHY SO SAD--ARE YOU LOST?
COME WITH ME. I'LL GET YOU SOMETHING!
HERE'S A SPECIAL CUSTOMER, SCHULTZ. GIVE HIM ANYTHING HE WANTS TO EAT!
TAKING CARE OF THIS POOR LITTLE STRAY DOG MAKES MY HEART FEEL GOOD!
SO LONG, PAL--IF YOU EVER NEED A JOB OR SOMETHING, LOOK ME UP!
NOW PLAYING!
BARKO
WORLD'S GREATEST TALKING DOG
END

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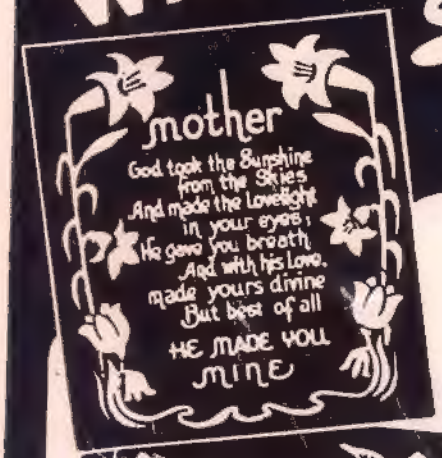

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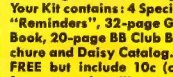

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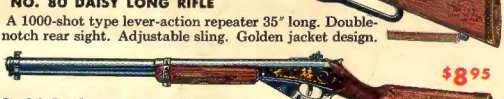

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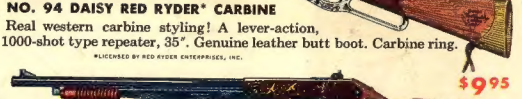

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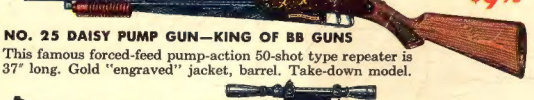

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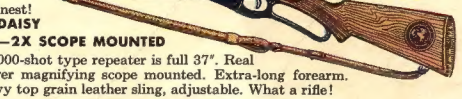

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